

APRIL | 2022

# GAVEL & BADGE



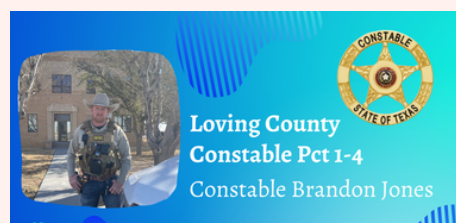
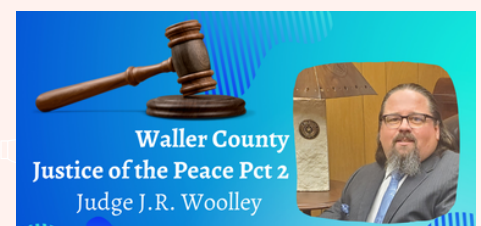
ISSUE 2

## TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES Post Covid

The pandemic was an immeasurable tragedy, but as we humans tend to do, we adapted. In this issue we explore some of the challenges and benefits that were discovered during the Covid pandemic. In Travis County, Judge Holmes shares how teleworking became paramount to "regular office life". Bell County's Judge Coleman discusses truancy initiatives and virtual hearings. Judge Woolley from Waller County explains the necessity of access to the public during the pandemic as well as how it helped technology move forward.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from legendary Constable Suits of Travis County and up-and-coming Constable Jones of Loving County. We learn about their proud moments in office, advice for new constables and the parts of the "job" that surprised them the most since being elected. They also talk the importance of JPCA and the future of Constables in Texas!

***To watch the full interview on YouTube, click the Judge or Constable's image!***



## Join us for the 78th Annual

Justices of the Peace and Constables Association Conference

June 27 - July 1, 2022

Texas A&M Hotel & Conference Center

177 Joe Routt Blvd. College Station, TX 77843

[> REGISTER NOW](#)



Watch the full interview here



## Legislative INTERIM

Kelsey Bernstein discusses all the major high points of the Legislative Interim session and how members can become more involved in the legislative process.

Stay in Touch



# CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

We'd love to invite you to join Justices of the Peace or Constables Mobilize Community. This is a space for us to share best practices, inspiration, tips, ideas and support each other. We'll also be using this platform to keep you updated on events, activities, and programs. It's simple to use and is a tool we can utilize to communicate with our peers statewide. If you have any problem registering please contact Kelsey Bernstein, our TAC Legislative Consultant at [KelseyB@county.org](mailto:KelseyB@county.org)

**\*Unfortunately at this time there is not a mobilize community community for JP Clerks**

**JUDGES REGISTER  
HERE**

**CONSTABLES REGISTER  
HERE**

## Upcoming EVENTS

**REGISTER ONLINE  
AT TJCTC**

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

<b>April 10-12, 2022</b>	CORE CURRICULUM Denton Embassy Suites
<b>May 8-10, 2022</b>	CORE CURRICULUM Austin Southpark Hotel
<b>May 15-17, 2022</b>	CAUSE & MANNER San Marcos Embassy Suites

### CONSTABLES

<b>April 17-20, 2022</b>	CIVIL PROCESS San Antonio Embassy Suites
<b>May 22-25, 2022</b>	CIVIL PROCESS Galveston Convention Center
<b>August 7-10, 2022</b>	CIVIL PROCESS Denton Embassy Suites



### Texas Justice Court Training Center

During these past two years, we've all seen how helpful it is to have online and virtual options for running an office. Many judges have told me how much it help to manage dockets. Constables have told me of serving as a virtual bailiff. If you'd like more information on what is possible to do online, please visit our 'Online Learning' tab and click on 'Tech Tools'. There, you'll find information on online hearings, how to better navigate our website, and how to access video magistration.

With all of the dedicated JPs, Constables, and clerks in Texas – the future looks bright!

Very Truly Yours,  
Thea D. Whalen

**CLICK HERE**

## ARE YOU GRADUATING

Have you finally completed your degree this year? Please send in your name, title, county, school, and the degree you completed to [gavelandbadge@gmail.com](mailto:gavelandbadge@gmail.com).

We would love to celebrate you and post your accomplishment in our next issue!

## Chaplains CORNER

**Dwain Read  
Chaplain for JPCA**

Did you realize that God never stops being compassionate? In today's world, daily we are being reminded of people in need in some form or another. What we see in Ukraine breaks our hearts and yet we as Americans are coming to the occasion and helping these folks with some of their needs.

As I'm writing this people in the area around Eastland, Texas have been devastated by wildfires. Can you imagine losing everything, your home, your personal belongings, your family momentous, your animals?

I've seen people helping folks over the years and at some point, they stop helping because of some action they took or didn't take. I am thankful that our God isn't like that, his compassion never fails. We read in Lamentations 3:22 "Through the Lord's mercies

we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not."

Many times, Christians ponder what they can do in service to our Lord. May I suggest to you, that being compassionate is something all of us should daily submit too. We need to look around us and see needs that are there but being overlooked by us.

The meaning of compassion is to recognize the suffering of others and then take action to help. If you are compassionate, then one would probably express that through your actions. Compassion embodies a tangible expression of love for those who are suffering. The suffering can be more than just needing things they don't have. It's more than buying food for the hungry. It could be helping someone that is hurting and suffering emotionally in their life.

As you serve this great State of Texas in your capacity remember you need to be compassionate.